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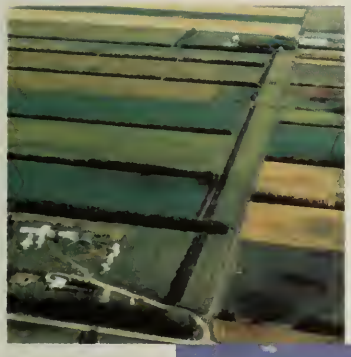
The Canada–Manitoba Water Supply Expansion Program

Ensuring long-term access to good-quality water



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This information is also available electronically on the World Wide Web at the following address:
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Également disponible en français sous le titre
Programme d'approvisionnement en eau Canada-Manitoba
Cat. No. A22-383/2004E
ISBN 0-662-36226-8
AAFC No. 2253E

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Strengthening Canada's agricultural sector

As the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector moves into the 21st century, it faces many challenges and opportunities for continued prosperity. In response, the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, and the agriculture and agri-food industry are working together to implement a plan to strengthen Canada's agricultural sector.

Called the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), this plan will help the sector become even stronger, more competitive, and more profitable, in markets at home and abroad.

Our goal? To ensure that Canada is a world leader in producing safe, high-quality food for Canadian and international markets in an environmentally responsible way using innovative methods.

To meet this goal, the Government of Canada has committed $5.2 billion over six years for programs under the APF. Taking into account cost-sharing arrangements with the provinces and territories, new investment in the Canadian agricultural sector is expected to exceed $7 billion.

The environment is a priority

Canadians expect all economic sectors, including agriculture, to do their part to protect the environment—and the agricultural industry understands that environmental stewardship is key to both long-term sustainability and profitability.

Producers are working with governments to strengthen their longstanding tradition of carefully managing the environment. Through the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), new programs will build on existing strengths to increase air, water, and soil quality, and to improve the ability of the agricultural sector to coexist with the natural environment in a sustainable way.

Why do we need to expand our water supply?

Depending on the weather alone to provide enough water to support their farm operations is a chance few Canadian producers can afford to take. In fact, producers often have to deal with water shortages and drought situations as a result of Canada's variable climate. Therefore, reducing the risk of water shortages by securing a long-term water supply simply makes good business sense.

The objectives of the National Water Supply Expansion Program

The National Water Supply Expansion Program (NWSEP) is a four-year, $60-million initiative that will help improve the capacity of the agricultural community across Canada to address water supply concerns.

The NWSEP was introduced in 2002. During the program's first year of operation, $10 million was used to help develop high-priority water-supply projects in drought-affected areas. In addition, a one-year National Scoping Study was funded through the NWSEP to determine agricultural areas of Canada experiencing or anticipating water shortages.

The Canada–Manitoba Water Supply Expansion Program

Results from the National Scoping Study are being used to help create the foundation for federal–provincial agreements under the NWSEP across Canada. In Manitoba, the agreement is called the Canada–Manitoba Water Supply Expansion Program (CMWSEP). Through this initiative, Manitoba producers have access to support—both technical and financial—for the planning and development of projects that will improve their ability to develop and enhance long-term, sustainable agricultural water supplies.

Who can participate in the program?

Eligible applicants for CMWSEP assistance in Manitoba include:

- individuals and/or incorporated groups of farmers and ranchers;
- agricultural and conservation groups;
- rural communities and municipalities;
- agri-businesses and rural enterprises;
- educational institutions; and
- provincial government departments, agencies, and Crown corporations.

What kinds of projects are eligible?

The CMWSEP will support three types of projects:

- **Tier One – On-farm water infrastructure projects:** individual on-farm water projects such as wells, dugouts, off-stream and water storage systems, and pasture pipelines;

- **Tier Two – Multi-user infrastructure projects:** larger scale projects that provide water to a number of water users and that will lead to growth in the agricultural sector, such as tank-loaders and regional pipelines;

- **Tier Three – Strategic work projects**, which include:
    - activities that enhance the understanding of operational and developmental limitations to water resources in Manitoba's rural agricultural areas; and
    - projects that promote the development of information and technologies or the dissemination of information, including but not limited to regional groundwater studies, groundwater exploration or testing, regional water-management planning, water-supply planning, feasibility studies, and information-extension activities.

In addition, projects must comply with **all** of the following criteria. They must:

- reduce the risk of future water shortages;
- target priorities identified through the National Scoping Study;
- be scientifically, technically, and financially feasible;
- be environmentally acceptable;
- enhance the potential for rural economic growth; and
- result in a long-term water-supply solution.

What financial assistance is available?

- For **Tier One – On-farm infrastructure projects**, Canada will contribute up to one-third of the eligible costs, to a maximum of $5,000 per project.

- For **Tier Two – Multi-user infrastructure projects**, Canada will contribute up to one-third of the eligible costs.

- For **Tier Three – Strategic work projects**, cost-sharing arrangements may vary, and will be determined and approved on a project-by-project basis.

In total, the Government of Canada is providing $10.3 million for projects in Manitoba over three years. The Province of Manitoba will contribute up to $8.6 million towards Tiers Two and Three. Manitoba's funding will be provided through: the Manitoba Water Services Board's Agricultural Area Water Pipeline Program and Community Water Source Development Program; and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives' Irrigation Development Program.

What is the application deadline?

The CMWSEP ends on March 31, 2006.

The annual deadline to submit applications for **Tier One – On-farm infrastructure projects is April 1**. There is no application deadline for **Tier Two or Tier Three** applications.

How to apply

To apply for assistance under the CMWSEP, complete the *Application for Assistance* form and send it to any designated CMWSEP location (please see following section for information on where to submit your applications). In addition to providing information such as name, address, and relevant contact telephone numbers, you must also provide initial project information such as location, description, estimated start and completion dates, estimated project costs, and sources of funding.

For copies of the form, please contact or visit the nearest Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) office nearest you. The form is also available on the NWSEP Web site at **www.agr.gc.ca/h2o/**.

Where to send your application

Send your completed application forms for **Tier One projects only** to:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
408 - 1800 Hamilton Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 4L2

Send your completed application forms for **Tiers Two and Three projects only** to:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
200 - 303 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3G7

Reviewing your application

A CMWSEP committee consisting of federal and provincial representatives will be established to assess all proposals based on the quality of each project plan, the degree to which project plans are incremental or complementary to other existing federal programs, and the degree to which projects provide broad-based public or environmental benefits.

All applications will be screened, reviewed, and rated to ensure program funds are directed to those projects that best meet CMWSEP objectives and priorities. Before approving a proposal, the CMWSEP committee will ensure that the proposed project addresses and enforces all technical and environmental standards for water-development projects.

Note

You must receive written approval for your project before you begin the proposed work. Any projects you start before you receive written approval are **not** eligible for funding.

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After your project is approved

Once your project is approved for financial assistance, you will receive a letter specifying the amount of assistance you are eligible to receive, as well as a deadline by which you have to complete the project. If you do not complete the project by the deadline, you may not receive any financial assistance.

For more information

For additional information on the Canada–Manitoba Water Supply Expansion Program, please contact **1 800 667-8567**, or visit the Web site at **www.agr.gc.ca/h2o/**, or contact the Manitoba Water Services Board at **mwsb@gov.mb.ca**

For more details on the Agricultural Policy Framework, please call:

Toll-free telephone: **1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)**
Teletypewriter (TTY) for hearing- and speech-impaired clients: **1 800 465-7735**

You can also visit the Agriculture and Agri-Food Web site at **www.agr.gc.ca** or the Government of Manitoba Web site at **www.gov.mb.ca**.